

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

The specification was objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter as indicated by the Examiner. It is submitted that the specification and figures provide sufficient support for the claimed subject matter identified. A new paragraph has been added to provide specific antecedent basis for the language identified by the Examiner.

Claims 4, 16, 17, 23, 24, 41, and 42 were previously cancelled. Additionally, Claim 39 is requested to be cancelled.

Claims 35, 38, 44 and 46 are currently being amended.

Claims 13 and 37 were withdrawn in response to an election of species. It is submitted that claims 1 and 35 from which claims 13 and 37 depend respectively are generic. Accordingly it is requested that claims 13 and 37 be reinstated and allowed. If the Examiner does not agree, Applicant requests that claims 13 and 37 be canceled. Applicant will then decide whether to file a divisional application.

Claims 35-36, 40, 43, 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aulbach 1,768,098 in view of Bravo et al. 6,530,500. Further, Claims 47-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aulbach 1,768,098 in view of Bravo et al. 6,530,500 as applied to claim 35 and further in view of Nottingham et al. 6,983,862.

Claim 35 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 39 which was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Since claim 39 depended directly to claim 35, claim 35 is now allowable. Claims 40, 43, 45, 47 and 48 all depend from claim 35 which are now in condition for allowance as well. Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's basis for the rejections of claims 40, 43, 45, 47 and 48 presented in the most recent office action.

Applicant acknowledges allowance of claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-15, 18-22, and 25-34.

Claims 38, 39, 44, and 46 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 38, 44 and 46 have been amended accordingly and are not in condition for allowance. Claim 39 has been canceled, but the elements of claim 39 is now included in the base claim 35 which as noted above is also now in condition for allowance.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-3, 5-15, 18-22, 25-38, 40, and 43-48 are now pending in this application.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 10/27/06

By 

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